

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 02387 202000Z
ACTION ARA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W
-----210143Z 030793 /62

R 201911Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5640
INFO USINFO WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 2387

USINFO FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OAS, PFOR, GT, US
SUBJ: OFFICIAL REACTION TO CARTER OAS SPEECH

REF: STATE 84912

1. COMMENT: EDITORIAL BELOW APPET APRIL 19 DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA, THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, AND IS FIRST OFFICIAL REACTION TO CARTER'S APRIL 14 SPEECH TO THE OAS. CONTENT AND TONE ARE HIGHLY FAVORABLE. EVEN CARTER'S REMARKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ARE LAUDED, ALTHOUGH THE EDITORIAL THEN NOTES "WITH EQUAL SATISFACTION" CARTER'S EMPHASIS ON THE "INDIVIDUALITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH LATIN AMERICAN NATION."
END COMMENT

2. FULL TEXT OF EDITORIAL FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE FEW DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN SO AWAITED AND HAVE MOTIVATED SUCH EXPECTATION PRIOR TO PUBLICATION AS THE SPEECH WHICH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES JIMMY CARTER DECIDED TO GIVE IN THE SEAT OF THE OAS.

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3. "IT HAD BEEN POINTED OUT THAT THE LATEST AMERICAN PRESIDENTS HAD ABANDONED THE IDEA OF INCLUDING IN THE PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT A DEFINITIVE POLICY TOWARD LATIN ORKUCA AND THERE WERE EVEN THOSE THAT STATED THAT THIS SAME POLICY IN RECENT YEARS WAS INCONSISTENT, ERRATIC, AND FICKLE.

4. "THEREFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT CARTER WOULD APPEAR IN

THE OAS RAISED A LOGICAL ANTICIPATION AMONG THE MOST DIVERSE SOCIAL AND OFFICIAL CIRCLES IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

5. "SINCE THE DOCUMENT BECAME KNOWN MANY COMMENTARIES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED. IN RESPECT TO THE OPINION OF MANY GUATEMALAN SOCIAL SECTORS, THE FACT THAT THE NORTH AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS ADOPTING A POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE REGION, IS SEIZING THEIR ATTENTION.

6. "IN A SPECIAL MANNER IT IS NOTED IN GUATEMALA THE CORRECT REALIZATION BY AMERICAN GOVERNMENTAL SECTORS OF THE ENORMOUS DIFFERENCES THAT EXIST, AS DISCLOSED BY THE INDEX OF DEVELOPMENT, IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR AMONG LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS.

7. "CORRECTLY PRESIDENT CARTER HAS NOTED THAT SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES POSSESS ABUNDANT ENERGY RESOURCES, AND OTHERS ARE THE VICTIMS OF A DESPERATE SHORTAGE, AND WHILE SOME ARE ALREADY IMPORTANT EXPORTERS OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS, OTHERS ARE STILL IN THE STAGE OF EXPORTING ONLY PRIMARY PRODUCTS.

8. "IT HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED HERE HOW WELL THOUGHT OUT AND JUST IS THE AMERICAN DECISION TO CHANNEL THE GREATER PART OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR COUNTRIES, AND TO REDUCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THE COMMERCIAL RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THE EXPORTS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, GIVING TO THESE COUNTRIES A SPECIAL TREATMENT. WE LIKEWISE GIVE ATTENTION TO THE TRANSFER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THAT IS SO NECESSARY TO ACCELERATE OUR DEVELOPMENT. THE STRENGTHENING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND OF OTHER BILATERAL LOAN INSTITUTIONS, AS UNCLASSIFIED

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WELL AS THE STABILIZATION OF PRICES OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON FUND TO FINANCE STABILIZING RESERVES ARE DECISIONS FAVORABLE TO COUNTRIES THAT ARE FACED WITH PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT SIMILAR TO OUR OWN.

9. "WE HAVE LOOKED WITH ATTENTION AS WELL TO THE CONCEPT OF PRESIDENT CARTER IN WHICH HE STATES THAT 'IN ADDITION TO ECONOMIC DIVERSITY' THERE HAVE DEVELOPED IN LATIN AMERICA 'WIDELY VARIED FORMS AND PHILOSOPHIES OF GOVERNMENT' AND THAT 'THIS DIVERSITY HAS BROUGHT NATIONAL PRIDE AND NATIONAL STRENGTH.'

10. "IN THIS RESPECT DIFFERENT SOCIAL SECTORS IN GUATEMALA HAVE SAID THAT WHILE THIS DIVERSITY DOES IN FACT EXIST IT IS THE ASPIRATION OF THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE THAT OTHER BROTHER COUNTRIES OF THE CONTINENT LIVE WITHIN SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT WHICH RESPECT HUMAN LIBERTY AND DIGNITY. LONG AND DIVERSE PERIODS OF POPULAR STRUGGLE HAVE SOLIDIFIED THE FAITH OF OUR PEOPLE IN THE BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FOR THE PEOPLE FROM ALTERNATIONS IN POWER AND FROM THE FREE EXERCISE OF DEMOCRACY. IT IS DIFFICULT

TO BELIEVE, IN GUATEMALA, THAT CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THESE PRINCIPLES ARE NOT RESPECTED CAN BE PROPITIOUS FOR THE FULL DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN INDIVIDUALITY AND OF THE COLLECTIVE LIFE OF THE PEOPLE.

11. "AS HAS HAPPENED IN ALL THE WORLD THE DECLARATIONS OF PRESIDENT CARTER THAT PLACE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PRIORITY LOCATION WHICH THEY MERIT HAVE BEEN READ AND HEARD WITH INTEREST. IT CAN BE STATED, WITH CERTAINTY, THAT THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT HAVE THE SAME CONCERN AND EQUAL DESIRE TO RESPECT THESE HUMAN RIGHTS.

12. "WE NOTE WITH EQUAL SATISFACTION THE EMPHASIS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT GIVES TO THE CONCEPT OF 'THE INDIVIDUALITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN NATION', AND THE CLEAR AFFIRMATION THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT ACT ABROAD IN A MANNER THAT IT WOULD NOT

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TOLERATE AT HOME FOR THEMSELVES' END QUOTE

13. SAME EDITION CARRIES FULL TEXT OF CARTER SPEECH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS COMMENTS, SPEECHES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770138-0025
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Line Count: 143
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 84912
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2752229
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL REACTION TO CARTER OAS SPEECH
TAGS: PFOR, GT, US, OAS, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/16942aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009